Enhancement of employment potential

419. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tenth Five Year Plan envisaged to enhance employment potential within the tourism sector as well as to foster economic integration;

(b) if so, the details of investment stimulated and unique tourism products developed till date during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of employment generated in this sector till date during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the revenue earned till date during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 2011.68 crore for 1160 projects for development of Destinations, Circuits, Rural Tourism, Events, Fairs and Festivals and IT projects. The unique tourism products developed in the last 3 years in the whole of the country include Medical tourism, Cruise tourism, Eco- tourism, Convention tourism etc.

(c) As per the Tourism Satellite Account the total employment generated in tourism sector during the last three years is as under:

Year	Employment generated
2004-05	44.7 million
2005-06	47.8 million
2006-07	51.1 million (Estimated)

(d) As per the Tourism Satellite Account the contribution of Tourism Sector to in GDP (direct and Indirect) India is as under:

Year	Contribution of Tourism Sector to GDP (direct and indirect)
2002-03	5.83%
2003-04	5.90%
2004-05	6.11 %

The Foreign Exchange earned during the last three years is as under:

Year	Foreign Exchange earned
1	2
2004	4769 US $ million

1	2
2005	5731 US $ million
2006	6569 US $ million

Tourism in concurrent list

420. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: SHRI
KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring tourism in the concurrent list of the Constitution for the orderly growth of the sector on a pan-India basis and the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce has recommended that the empowered Centre can play a more proactive role in developing the tourism sector and there is a need that tax structure be harmonized to ensure uniformity of levying tax on tourism related sectors like hotels, tour operators and travel services etc.; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the suggestion as India is becoming one of the tourist destinations with its varied and rich natural endowments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The issue of inclusion of Tourism in the Concurrent List of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution had earlier been examined by the Ministry of Tourism. It was felt that since "Tourism" is not appearing in any of the three lists of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution, the Central Government is competent to legislate on any matter under the residuary powers. After detailed examination and taking into account all the factors, it was decided that the matter should be dropped.

The Ministry of Tourism functions as the nodal agency for development of tourism in the country. Some of the steps taken up by the Ministry for development of the tourism sector in the country include development of tourist spots under its various schemes of infrastructure development for tourist circuits and destinations, taking up promotional activities in overseas markets through various media to attract more tourists to India, requesting State Governments to set up Tourist Police and deploy them at important popular tourist destinations for safety and security of tourists, launching of a social awareness campaign "Atithi Devo Bhavah" to sensitize the stakeholders in tourism, and the public in general, and granting recognition/approval to Guides/Travel Agents and Transport Operators in order to standardize their services and to avoid unscrupulous activities, fleecing, overcharging etc. by them.

The Ministry of Tourism also liaises with various Ministries/Departments on issues like availability of visa timely, good airports, cheap airfares, good air connectivity, sufficient and affordable accommodation units, proper road and rail connectivity of the destinations to the National Highways, entry permits for restricted areas, rationalization of taxes, etc. as well as to sort out any issues detrimental to the overall tourism development.